

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002134
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002134

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SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST

REF: (A) 77 STATE 310436 (B) 77 STATE 294207, (C) 77
STATE 277203

1. SOVIET EMBASSY SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED JANUARY 3
CHARGING THAT DEPARTMENT HAS OBSTRUCTED CONSULAR MEETINGS
WITH SOVIET CITIZENS IN VIOLATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION.
2. NOTE CITES CASES OF SHIP JUMPER BAKLAN (REF A), FORMER
SOVIET DIPLOMAT IPATOV (REF B), AND SCIENTIST VARSHAVSKIY
(REF C). FULL TEXT OF SOVIET NOTE FOLLOWS:
3. QUOTE. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 002134

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
FACTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE WHEN, DESPITE THE PROVISIONS
OF THE SOVIET-U.S. CONSULAR CONVENTION, THE U.S. SIDE
CREATES ALL KINDS OF OBSTACLES TO MEETINGS OF THE
EMBASSY'S CONSULAR OFFICIALS WITH SOVIET CITIZENS IN THE
U.S.

THE MATTER IN QUESTION IS THE FACT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, UNDER VARIOUS PRETEXTS, ARTIFICIALLY DELAYS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH MEETINGS. ONE INCIDENT WHICH ELOQUENTLY ATTESTS TO THIS IS THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 29, 1977, IN THE PRESENCE OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, BETWEEN THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR EMPLOYEES AND SOVIET CITIZEN V. G. BAKLAN, WHO STATED THAT HE HAD AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF A CONSULAR OFFICER IN NEW ORLEANS FOR A TALK WITH HIM WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AT FIRST ASSERTED THAT HE DID NOT WANT A MEETING AND, THEN, THAT HE HAD ALLEGEDLY LEFT NEW ORLEANS.

UNDER SIMILAR PRETEXTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS BEEN BLOCKING MEETINGS OF SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICIALS WITH B. V. IPATOV SINCE JULY 1977 AND, SINCE SEPTEMBER 1977, WITH A. YA. VARSHAVSKIY. THE LATTER--AND OF THIS THE EMBASSY IS CERTAIN--DID NOT DECIDE TO REMAIN IN RESIDENCE IN THE U.S. AND, THEREFORE, THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN PREVENTING A MEETING WITH HIM FOR THREE MONTHS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED ANYTHING BUT AN ATTEMPT AT PSYCHOLOGICALLY MANIPULATING VARSHAVSKIY IN ORDER TO PERSUADE HIM NOT TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

THE EMBASSY EMPHATICALLY INSISTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS IN THE SECTION OF THE SOVIET-U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 002134

SULAR CONVENTION CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF CONSULAR OFFICERS "TO MEET WITH, COMMUNICATE WITH, ASSIST, AND ADVISE ANY NATIONAL OF THE SENDING STATE AND, WHERE NECESSARY, ARRANGE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIM."

JANUARY 3, 1978, WASHINGTON, D. C. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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